

KEYSBOROUGH SOUTH COMMUNITY FORUM

11 November 2015, 7.30pm – 9.10pm

Springers Leisure Centre



MINUTES

Attendees:

Councillors:

Cr Matthew Kirwan (Chair – Ward Councillor), Cr Heang Tak (Mayor), Cr Angela Long (Ward Councillor), Cr Jim Memeti (Ward Councillor), Cr Roz Blades

Council Officers:

John Bennie (Chief Executive Officer), Lisa Roberts (Manager Governance), Martin Fidler (Manager Community Wellbeing), Sue Appleton-Phillips (Coordinator Sport & Recreation), Danny Przychodzki (Team Leader Transport), Jo Thorn (Mayor & Councillors Executive Assistant)

Guests:

Nina Kelly (Keysborough South Action Group)
Phoebe Harrison and Bronwen Hamilton - Representatives from Planisphere
Charlotte Gray from the Office of Martin Pakula MP (State Member for Lyndhurst)
Monica Badler from the Office of Mark Dreyfus MP (Federal Member for Isaacs)

Community Members:

43 attended

Business:

Formal business started at 7.35pm

| Speaker | Comments |
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| Mayor Heang Tak | Welcome to everyone here tonight. It is a good turnout and we will talk about a number of topics. I would like to introduce you to Ward Councillors Angela Long, Jim Memeti, Matthew Kirwan and Nina Kelly from the Keysborough South Action Group. I will hand you over to the Chair of tonight's forum, Cr Matthew Kirwan. |
| Cr Matthew Kirwan | Welcome everyone and thank you for coming tonight. You will all find a ward map on your seats. You will see that Red Gum is a large and diverse ward. It includes all of the suburbs of Dandenong and Bangholme and parts of Noble Park, Dandenong North and the new estates of Keysborough. Due to the hard work that Council staff and the Keysborough South Action Group have done lobbying for a bus route, a workshop will be held by Public Transport Victoria next Wednesday at Keysborough College for which you can register on line or by contacting Charlotte from Martin Pakula's office. You also have an agenda on your seats for tonight. Information on rate capping is also available and while we won't talk about residential zones tonight, information is available on how residents in the new estates of Keysborough are affected. Please complete the registration form if you haven't already done so. We also have some feedback forms for you to complete so we can run these sessions better in future, so please provide us with feedback about tonight if you can. Over to our first speaker, Council's Sue Appleton-Phillips, who will talk about the Tattersson Park Pavilion project. |

| Sue Appleton-Phillips | TATTERSON PARK MASTERPLAN AND THE NEW TATTERSON PARK COMMUNITY SPORTS COMPLEX | | |
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| | Hello everyone. As you will see with this presentation, the Tatterson Park Masterplan has improvements to parking and landscaping as well as more walking and cycling tracks, a running circuit and an outdoor gym is planned. Council is currently developing a cycling strategy and you can provide us your views on Council's website which is on the card available at the rear of room. The new Tatterson pavilion sees a community sport complex being built between the two main ovals. There were many aspects to consider for the location of the pavilion including the drainage distance between the sports grounds, the multipurpose nature of the facility, the different sports needing to be catered for and its potential use by both grass roots organisations as well as elite. Key design principles. The proposed facility has a major function room and meeting rooms that can be hired by the community as well as eight changing rooms. The woodlands have been extended, there is a new wetlands area and landscaping will be designed around the car parking so the area remains attractive. | | |
| Speaker | Statement/Question | Response By | Response |
| Resident | The car park proposed is for 50 cars. It doesn't seem like many. | Sue Appleton-Phillips | Car parking will be increased over time. |
| Resident | Are there plans for a specific club to come here? | Sue Appleton-Phillips | Not at this time. |
| | | Cr Matthew Kirwan | While Sue is here, as she is the Coordinator for Sports and Recreation for the whole Council, please feel free to ask any questions about sport and recreation in Greater Dandenong in general. |
| Resident | What about an area for table tennis? | Sue Appleton-Phillips | We are currently looking at an area or centre for table tennis and are doing some feasibility studies around that. |
| Resident | Will the original building stay? | Sue Appleton-Phillips | Yes – Springers Leisure Centre will remain. |
| Resident | What are you looking at in terms of Oasis? | Sue Appleton-Phillips | We are currently looking at that facility because it is an old building, we need to plan for its future and the future of indoor swimming facilities for the city. |
| Resident | Will the pitch at Tatterson Park be multi-use for hockey and soccer? | Sue Appleton-Phillips | We are looking at whether it can be combined and are discussing that with the sporting bodies at the moment. |
| Resident | What about security and increased surveillance at the new facility? | Sue Appleton-Phillips | We are not looking to increase that at this stage. |
| | | Cr Matthew Kirwan | Maybe you could mention the Keysborough Tennis Club? |
| | | Sue Appleton-Phillips | We are actually working with the Keysborough Tennis Club regarding awareness and opening up the club further with public access to the courts as part of the "Opening Up" Tennis Scheme being operated by Tennis Victoria. |

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| Resident | If they are looking at doing that they should also be looking at increasing car parking there as well. People who use the off-lead dog area have trouble parking there already because of the Tennis Club. There is already a dog training school there and kindergarten and the off-lead dog area needs water and other services (which could be tapped into through the kindergarten). | Sue Appleton-Phillips | We will take that information back and ask the question. |
| Cr Jim Memeti | How much is the Tatterson Pavilion going to cost and what is funded? | Sue Appleton-Phillips | The project will cost approximately \$9 million and about half of that is funded by the State and Federal governments. The project is staged over a number of years. |
| Resident | We pay a special levy to live here. Does that levy not contribute to that? | Cr Matthew Kirwan | That levy goes towards maintaining the 20% open space in this area including the open space of Tatterson Park. The levy does not go towards this pavilion project. |
| Resident | Who looks after the waterway? | John Bennie, CEO | Melbourne Water has responsibility for the functions of the waterway. |
| Resident | When I moved into this area years ago they said the levy would only be \$500 more now it is more than that. We are discriminated against and I have raised this matter with Council many times. I don't think this levy should be imposed based on the values of properties. | Cr Jim Memeti | I probably told you at the time that I support what you are saying but it takes the whole of Council to make a decision. I suggest you make a petition and send it to Council. |
| Resident | It is not fair. | Cr Jim Memeti | In fairness, before any properties were purchased here a section 32 statement would have outlined that the levy existed. There is 20% open space in the new estates of Keysborough – a much higher rate of open space than anywhere else in the city. |
| Resident | Is the pavilion project due to public demand or was it a Council decision? | Cr Matthew Kirwan | It is a regional facility and there is an overall demand for the region. |
| Resident | Is there any statistical data as to how many residents will benefit from the new facility. | Sue Appleton-Phillips | Some data is available but it may not be as specific as required. Consultation indicates significant community support for the project and significant support from local community groups and services. |

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| Resident | So you said there was a lot of support from close residents? | Cr Matthew Kirwan | There was support from all over the municipality. |
| Resident | So we subsidise this project through payment of the levy? | Cr Matthew Kirwan | No - the levy is for maintaining open space. When I talk to people in this part of Keysborough they use facilities in other parts of the city because of the lack of facilities here. Across the city, facilities need to be shared. |
| Resident | So why don't you build them in other parts of the city? | Cr Matthew Kirwan | Those who are growing up here will benefit from this project. |
| Resident | But they won't be paying for it. | Cr Angela Long | Remember that the levy does not contribute to this project. It is a contribution towards maintaining public open space. |
| Resident | It seems to me that other people benefit for what I am paying for. Council does not understand. | Cr Jim Memeti | I would gladly pay more for the value that is added to properties in this area. You do not realise how lucky you are to live here. |
| Resident | I agree. The people on this side of Cheltenham Road do not realise how lucky they are. They should be talking about the whole city – not just what happens on this side of Cheltenham Road. | Resident | Well you should pay more and we should pay less. |
| Speaker | Comments | | |
| Cr Matthew Kirwan | I will hand over discussion now to Council officer Danny Przychodzki now to talk about lobbying for bus services in this area. Keysborough South Action Group has been busy in this space as well. | | |
| Danny Przychodzki | <p>BUS SERVICES IN KEYSBOROUGH SOUTH</p> <p>Hello everyone. I have worked in transport services for 15 years have discussed and lobbied with state government and made many suggestions over the years. Council has consistently and constantly advocated for transport services in this area for many years and Public Transport Victoria (PTV) have finally organised a workshop for next week. The details are provided on your chairs so I encourage you all to go. Not everyone will agree on what routes are needed but PTV will take your comments on board and Council will continue with advocacy as well and lobby for frequencies of buses. Council is strongly supportive of this workshop and will be in attendance. If there are no questions about transport I will hand you over to Nina Kelly from the Keysborough South Action Group to further discuss this issue.</p> | | |
| Nina Kelly | <p>Hello. I moved into this area in 2013. The Keysborough South Action Group is passionate about services for the area. We've met with practically everyone at State level and Federal MP Mark Dreyfus. The group is made up of 30 active residents. The maps I have here show the residential growth between 2010 and 2015 and provide the route for the proposed Keysborough South bus extension. The current bus service is isolating the community and does not provide adequate access. The Action Group's main goal is advocate to link Keysborough South residents to Mordialloc Station, Noble Park Station and build a new bus interchange, Dandenong South industrial area, new shopping centre at corner of Hutton Road and Chapel Road and Parkmore Shopping Centre. We are advocating for a particular bus funding model (State, private and Council) which would provide for a good service to both Noble Park and Mordialloc station throughout this area. Bypass currently has 30,000 vehicles a day travelling on it and Cheltenham Road has 9,000 vehicles per day so traffic is excessive. This needs to be considered.</p> | | |

| Speaker | Statement/Question | Response By | Response |
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| Resident | I would like to see a bus route run the full length of Governor road to the back of Mordialloc College. | | |
| Resident | Do we know what shopping complexes and services are planned at that proposed shopping centre site? | Cr Matthew Kirwan | I understand that a supermarket is planned but which particular additional shops are uncertain. A medical centre is likely. |
| Resident | How big is the area of the shopping centre? | Cr Matthew Kirwan | I would have to get back to you. |
| | | John Bennie | It might be similar to the centre which is on the corner of Springvale Road and Princes Highway. |
| Resident | Will Keysborough Animal Shelter be taken up with the land proposed for the new shopping centre? | Cr Matthew Kirwan | No - the centre is on the corner of Chapel Road and Greens Road, south of the Animal Shelter area. |
| Resident | You three councillors should take heed of Casey Council which builds new developments and shopping centres together but Greater Dandenong doesn't do that. Parkmore is one of the worst shopping centres, condition-wise, existing and Dandenong is just like it. Parkmore is getting worse. | Cr Matthew Kirwan | If a developer comes to us as a Council and wants to build a shopping centre we decide on a planning permit application but it is up to them when they build it. Also, we cannot control how Parkmore is maintained and operated. |
| Resident | You have a developer down there telling people what is going on. | Cr Angela Long | Council does not build shopping centres or medical centres. Developers build them. Casey Council does not build shopping centres. |
| Resident | We know that. | Cr Angela Long | Developers will not put something on land that will not turn a profit. |
| | | Cr Jim Memeti | Council approved a planning permit for a developer to build a shopping centre on that site in 2011. What more do you expect us to do? When you say Casey Council are building shopping centres you are wrong. |
| | | Cr Matthew Kirwan | The City of Casey has a population that is growing by 10,000 every year. That is very different to Greater Dandenong where development is limited. We unfortunately can't control what developers promise residents. |
| Resident. | From an older person's point of view, Parkmore is a great shopping centre and I disagree with that | Danny Przychodzki | Just as a note – there will be a Public Transport Victoria drop in station at Parkmore Shopping Centre from 3.00-5.00pm on 26 November 2015. |

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| | resident quite strongly. | | |
| Speaker | Comments | | |
| Cr Matthew Kirwan | I would now like to introduce Council's Martin Fidler to talk about Council's advocacy for schools in the area. | | |
| Martin Fidler | <p>LOBBYING FOR A NEW SCHOOL</p> <p>Council has been advocating for many years for the provision of schools in the local area. Council has been lobbying the Department of Education for a school in this area. Nina Kelly will give you a brief summary of the schools closures in the area.</p> | | |
| Nina Kelly | <p>In Keysborough South, the original Keysborough P/S was closed in the early 1990's. In the area Coomoorra HS opened in the 1970s then a decision was made to later close it down. The Keysborough Park P/S in Lockwood Avenue PS was sold. Maralinga PS was closed. With the remaining primary schools in the immediate area there are quite low numbers at a few and very high numbers in some- Parents are sending their children to areas as diverse as Edithvale, Dandenong North and Dingley. Currently, Kingswood PS has 118 preps for 2015. If enrolment stays at this number, once these preps are in Grade 6, there will be close to 800 students. Where will Keysborough South children go to primary school and high school? None of the existing schools in the area are within walking distance and also involve crossing the Dandenong bypass. Council has identified three sites for future schools (confidential).</p> | | |
| Martin Fidler | <p>The Department of Education has advised Council that this area has gone up on the priority list but we are competing with other growth areas such as Wyndham and Casey. Council continues to argue that we are a growth corridor and we have the need for a primary and secondary school and we are hoping they will push a school in this community to the top of the list. Regardless, Council's advocacy will continue.</p> <p>The data the Department was initially using was just based on primary school figures but now they are considering what has been provided by Council for both primary and secondary.</p> | | |
| Nina Kelly | The big news today is that a Member of Parliament was asked a question today about this and that MP now has 30 days in which to respond so we might actually get an answer before Christmas. | | |
| Speaker | Statement/Question | Response By | Response |
| Resident | Can't an existing school be used for a new school site such as Maralinga? | Nina Kelly | The old school sites are not really in the right locations now for Keysborough South residents. |
| Resident | Isn't there an issue with some of the old land containing asbestos where old chicken sheds used to be housed? | Cr Matthew Kirwan | Any building process now has to go through an extensive asbestos removal program if building anywhere where old buildings were. |
| | | John Bennie | Environmental management is part of the building process now. |
| Resident | Can you not tell us the possible sites? | Cr Matthew Kirwan | As a prospective buyer we cannot tell you where because price would then skyrocket. |
| Resident | As a resident here paying the levy, the grounds here are kept beautifully and worth paying the additional levy. | Cr Jim Memeti | If there are any areas where you are not happy with the park maintenance you need to let us know. |

| Speaker | Comments | | |
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| Martin Fidler | <p>PROPOSED KEYSBOROUGH SOUTH COMMUNITY HUB</p> <p>While the provision of education is not Council's responsibility, Council is a strong advocate. Council is however, a direct provider of community services so we have been discussing the co-location of Council services together with a future school in a joint community hub. The Council services that would be combined with a school would be for example kindergartens and maternal, child and healthcare centres. From 2014, Council has targeted about \$11.2 million to building a community hub in in this area. Everyone was mailed a questionnaire earlier this year and what came back from the community was that it wanted a school, flexible meeting spaces, a community garden, outside spaces, and immunisation centre – essentially a community hub. We have been working at bringing all that information together and two consultants from Planisphere are here to talk to you informally later on as part of the current round of consultation. We don't know and cannot tell you if the Department of Education is going to commit to building a school. We have been waiting for 13 years but we can't keep waiting. Council needs to continue to plan for a community hub regardless of what the Department decides and is looking for a range of sites on where that hub could go.</p> <p>There is a card that the consultants will pass out at the end of this session. Consultation will be open till about early December and material will also be available at Parkmore Shopping Centre. We are looking for feedback from particular people with local knowledge. Design concepts will be worked on starting in December and should be available for comment by March 2016.</p> | | |
| Speaker | Statement/Question | Response By | Response |
| Resident | What does the proposed hub look like? | Martin Fidler | It will be inclusive of early year services, will have flexible use spaces. We are planning for the consultation to inform the design. |
| | | | If you have been to the Paddy O'Donoghue Centre in Noble Park then that is what it could look like. |
| Resident | Has the Animal Shelter agreed to move? It is unfair to mention them tonight if they have not been informed | Martin Fidler | I understand that they have been aware of the Department of Education's plans since 2008. |
| Resident | Where will they move | Cr Matthew Kirwan | One option is further into the green wedge in Bangholme. |
| Cr Matthew Kirwan | Are there any other questions on this topic? If not we will move to open questions about any topic? | | |
| | GENERAL ISSUES | | |
| Resident | Who is responsible for the lake? | Cr Matthew Kirwan | Melbourne Water. |
| | | Cr Angela Long | Council has lobbied on behalf of residents in relation to that lake. |
| | | Cr Matthew Kirwan | We do lobby on your behalf but nothing speaks better than when residents go directly to the responsible authorities. |

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| Resident | Who do you talk to about fencing around waterways? Some kid will drown soon. | Cr Matthew Kirwan | We will take that back to Melbourne Water. |
| Resident | I understand that the Keysborough Golf Club has been sold. What is Council's position on that? | Cr Matthew Kirwan | I understand that they wish to be taken out of the urban growth boundary (UGB) and have approached the government about that. |
| | | John Bennie | Initially the Keysborough Golf Club opted to stay outside the UGB but now it wishes to come back inside it. |
| | | Cr Matthew Kirwan | If you do have any views on that you can speak to Charlotte from Martin Pakula's office who is here tonight. |
| Resident | The historical precinct - what is happening with that? | Cr Matthew Kirwan | My understanding is that they have an overlay on them so any planning application would have to come to Council. |
| Resident | In relation to schools - it seems silly not to use existing facilities for short term. The government will not build anything in the next three years. That is unrealistic. Dollar amounts will not be met and the money isn't in the coffers. | Cr Matthew Kirwan | It is a reaction to using old buildings as civic facilities. We have some experience with this and trying to adjust old buildings to current needs is actually really expensive. As an example, the Springvale Civic Offices were investigated for a retrofit for community use and were found to be cost prohibitive and Keysborough seniors found a retrofit more expensive than a new and better facility. |
| Resident | In regards to maintenance, I live on Sunflower Street and in eight months I have never seen the lake/creek cleaned out. The water stinks. I rang Council and the developer. The developer said landscaping and waterway had been handed over to Council to be approved. Someone came and mowed the weeds. | Cr Jim Memeti | We will look into it. |
| Resident | What do you do about people who have left premises and the grass has grown long and unsightly. | Cr Angela Long | Ring Council and give details of the property and a warning will issue to the owner. If no action is taken then, Council will clear at owner's cost. |
| | | Cr Matthew Kirwan | You can also download and use the smartphone application – Snap Send Solve to report such issues. |

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| Resident | Regarding gum trees breaking – I have used Snap Send Solve and received no response from Council. | Cr Matthew Kirwan | I will talk to you after this session. |
| Resident | When will parking be extended at Yarraman Station. | Cr Matthew Kirwan | It is a state government issue and we are advocating on the issue. The lack of frequency of bus services compounds the issue as it forces people to drive to stations. |
| | | Nina Kelly | If you go to the RACV website site there is a survey on there at the moment and in the metro newspapers about this issue. |
| Resident | In relation to new shopping centres and proposed schools and developments what is proposed with road infrastructure? | Danny Przychodzki | There are documents called developer contribution plans and when development hits certain thresholds, developers are required to contribute to the upgrade of infrastructure, road construction works and capacity improvements. Council also has a road hierarchy that identifies the main function of a road. |
| Resident | Chapel road won't be able to cope with any other services in that area. Same with Hutton road. It is not the place for two schools and a shopping centre. Parkmore was meant to be the size of the shopping centre that you wanted for this area. It was meant to be a corner shop. You need to be careful what you ask for. | | |
| Resident | Another problem with Chapel road is the adjacent industrial road as B-doubles use. It needs alternatives for industrials. | Danny Przychodzki | The National Vehicle Regulator is now established and industrial routes are approved. If B-doubles are using illegal routes you can ring the authorities and let them know. |

Formal meeting closed at 9.16pm. (Informal discussion closed at 10.00pm)